Electronics Resource Recovery for the Technology Sector

ERM
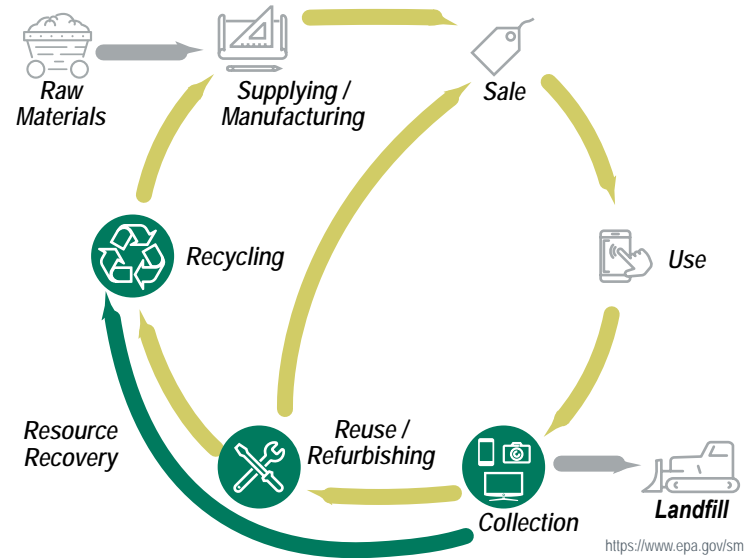
Electronics resource recovery

ERM's global team works with technology companies to support sustainable business outcomes across the full product lifecycle. As we transition from a linear economy to a circular economy, effective resource recovery is essential to safeguarding that consumer electronics are properly collected, reused and refurbished, or recycled.

Successful resource recovery is imperative for maintaining brand position and mitigating future business risks. ERM is partnering with our clients to respond to these specific needs, whether you are just beginning your journey with a new product and need to scale, or you are advancing an existing program to meet changing business conditions.

This mind map shows how ERM is supporting our clients along the resource recovery segment of the product lifecycle.

Raw Materials — Supplying / Manufacturing — Sale — Use — Reuse / Refurbishing — Collection — Landfill — Resource Recovery — Recycling

https://www.epa.gov/smm-electronics/

Electronics Resource Recovery Services

End of Life Program Development
Create and implement e-waste management programs that meet compliance obligations, mitigate business risk, and harness opportunities to enable a circular economy.

Downstream Vendor Auditing
Verify recycling vendors are complying with regulatory and contract requirements to make third-party risks visible, which mitigates both environmental, health and safety (EHS) and reputational risk.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Compliance Management
Streamline programs to meet complex regulatory requirements across multiple geographies, and monitor for regulatory changes.

Electronics management services

Whether you are creating new product or building a program from the beginning, or improving an existing program to meet evolving business needs, ERM can help. With our experience and focus on resource recovery for consumer electronics — including vendor management, auditing against standards and corporate contract requirements, EPR requirements, and keeping up with new regulatory changes — we help clients deliver high impact results and quick solutions.

ERM solutions for sustainable business outcomes

END OF LIFE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Create and implement programs that successfully manage electronics to the point of final disposition, including:
• Vendor Management Programs
• Policies and Procedures
• Compliance Reporting
• Tool Development

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY MANAGEMENT

Deliver sustainable compliance management services that:
• Prepare and submit registrations and periodic reports
• Build tools and compliance calendars to track compliance deadlines
• Monitor regulatory changes
• Provide strategic advice on recycling and collection plans

Electronics Resource Recovery Management Services

01

02

03

DOWNSTREAM VENDOR AUDITING

Build turnkey audit programs that:
• Evaluate compliance with local environmental, health and safety requirements
• Align with industry standards such as Responsible Recycling (R2) and the e-Stewards standard
• Incorporate contract and company-specific requirements tailored to your business
• Identify compliance trends based on audit performance
• Verify completion of corrective actions

Project Examples

With more than 40 years of experience in Environmental, Health, Safety and Sustainability, ERM has a comprehensive understanding of EHS and electronics industry issues facing your business. As you will see in the electronics resource recovery examples below, we have partnered with our clients to improve overall compliance and mitigate reputational and brand risks.

E-Waste Framework and Roadmap

Summary: ERM was selected by a global technology company to assess their current e-waste management program and then develop a framework that addresses compliance gaps, and implements a program to mitigate future EHS compliance risks associated with new product development.

Benefits: The client now has clear visibility of their compliance obligations related to e-waste, which helps them better identify and plan around potential risks related to e-waste as they take new products to market. The global framework also provides transparency to the greater business for proactive e-waste management across their geographic footprint.

Development of Recycler Verification Program

Summary: ERM co-developed a global audit program for a global consumer electronics company to assess and manage compliance of its e-waste vendors. ERM implemented a turnkey audit solution that assesses 80+ vendors annually on EHS compliance, downstream material flow, insurances and certifications.

Benefits: The program has successfully mitigated the business risk associated with using third-party vendors for e-waste recycling, with a reduction in governance program costs over 5 years by more than 50%. ERM continues to serve as their long-term partner, consistently providing year-on-year delivery, with insight and advice on continual improvement that evolves the program to match and alleviate changing market conditions.

Scalable Audit Program Implementation

Summary: ERM led a pilot audit program for a multinational technology solutions company to assess compliance of three vendors against the e-Stewards standard, and create the foundation for our client's regional e-waste audit program. ERM partnered with the client to develop the program, execute the pilot and implement lessons learned. The pilot program has been scaled up to include turnkey audits of 17+ recyclers, and now includes follow-on actions with the recyclers to implement corrective actions and meet contractual obligations.

Benefits: The client now has full transparency on how their collected e-waste is being managed by their third-party recyclers. The learnings from the pilot program were used to update contract language with the recycling vendors to further protect the client's business interests. The scaled program continues to identify and curtail EHS and contract risks as they arise.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program Management

Summary: ERM evaluated and then streamlined a corporate EPR takeback reporting program for a global technology company by developing processes and tools designed to make reporting more efficient and meet deadlines consistently.

Benefits: With these tools in place, the client has now realized comprehensive compliance reporting services for 25 US states and the Canadian provinces in accordance with e-waste takeback laws. By streamlining their reporting solution, the client realized additional time savings of 100+ hours per year for two employees, which allowed them to focus on other critical business needs with support from ERM to meet routine compliance obligations.

Third-Party Recycler Audit Program

Summary: ERM was selected by a global technology company to implement a global audit program of 100+ e-waste recyclers in 23 countries. ERM developed a standardized global audit protocol and reporting framework, deployed 40 trained auditors globally, and implemented a corrective action program for timely follow-up and resolution of identified issues.

Benefits: As a result of the program, audit reporting time has been reduced by 30%, freeing up the client to focus on other strategic initiatives, and corrective actions are being closed at a consistent rate. Through reliable and consistent on-time service and delivery, the client is able to better inform business stakeholders making key decisions about recycling partners as they work to establish a circular economy framework.

40+
countries & territories

5500+
employees

Served **50%**
of Global Fortune 500 in past 3 years

50
year history

160+
offices

20,000+
projects each year

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